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MEOLE MATTERS

ISSUE 01 | JANUARY 2024 | PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

COVER ARTWORK: ORLA O'DONNELL

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Hello and welcome to the first issue of Meole Matters.

This is a community publication, created by and for all residents of Meole Brace. It aims to bring together important local information, issues and thoughts, along with new social connections, friendship and support. A connected community enriches all those within and provides a powerful collective voice.

If you have something you'd like to contribute to our next issue, please get in touch. We are open to any and all contributions, from thought pieces, local info, history and events, to artwork, photography, reviews, recipes, passion projects... and more! It's your publication.

A big thank you to all that have contributed to this issue, whether it be content or booking an advertisement with us. Local business' advertising within these pages is essential to covering the cost of print. If you operate a business locally, please get in touch for more info on placing an advertisement with us and improving our local directory. Please support local business if you can.

Editor/Publisher:
Tom Shepherd
meolemattersmag@gmail.com

Advertising:
Jean Foster & Angharad Taylor
treasurermvcg@gmail.com
angharadmeolematters@gmail.com

Coordination / Distribution
Bernie Bentick
bernie4meole@gmail.com
07890 056177 (Mon & Thu or voicemail)

We hope that you find this relaunched Meole Matters magazine interesting and informative and would appreciate any feedback on its content, including what you found most beneficial, plus suggested changes or improvements: please email us with your feedback at the addresses above.

SHREWSBURY

FOOD HUB

FOOD FOR GOOD

Shrewsbury Food Hub redistributes surplus food for social and environmental good. Its vision is a community where food is valued and not wasted.

Since April 2016, it has collected good surplus food from supermarkets, manufacturers and farms and shared it with local charities and groups that nourish our community.

Schools can offer free toast and fruit to children who have not had breakfast, food banks can offer fresh produce to supplement food parcels, and groups like Age UK, Shropshire Mind and Shropshire Supports Refugees can overcome social isolation by bringing people together for a meal, coffee morning or afternoon tea.

The Hub's rescued food saves its partner groups on average 44% of their food budget. Some groups rely entirely on the food it supplies to provide refreshments for their beneficiaries. This in turn releases funds for other pressing needs, allowing these groups to do more.

The Hub also supports 15 weekly community Foodshares where everyone is welcome to collect a few bags of food to help stretch budgets and stop food waste. Meole's local Foodshare is at the Meet Place, Maesbrook Road on Thursday mornings 9am to 10am.

Last year its 149 volunteers stopped 217+ tonnes of good food from going to waste – enough for over 518,000 meals and offsetting around 555 tonnes of greenhouse gases!

Although the Hub's focus is on stopping food waste from businesses, around 70% of food waste happens at home – in our fridges, fruit bowls and bread bins. To help tackle this, it launched a Taste with No Waste challenge in 2023 to help families make the most of the food they buy and reduce their food waste at home.

More than 1,000 families signed up to the challenge. Even those who started with hardly any food waste learnt some great tips for wasting less and saving money, on average saving £4.30 a week - that's over £200 a year! And on average, people reported a 44% reduction in food waste.

The Hub may be a small charity from a small town, but it is making a BIG impact!

For more information including the weekly Foodshare timetable and to join the Taste with No Waste challenge visit shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk

Connect On-Demand New Bus Service

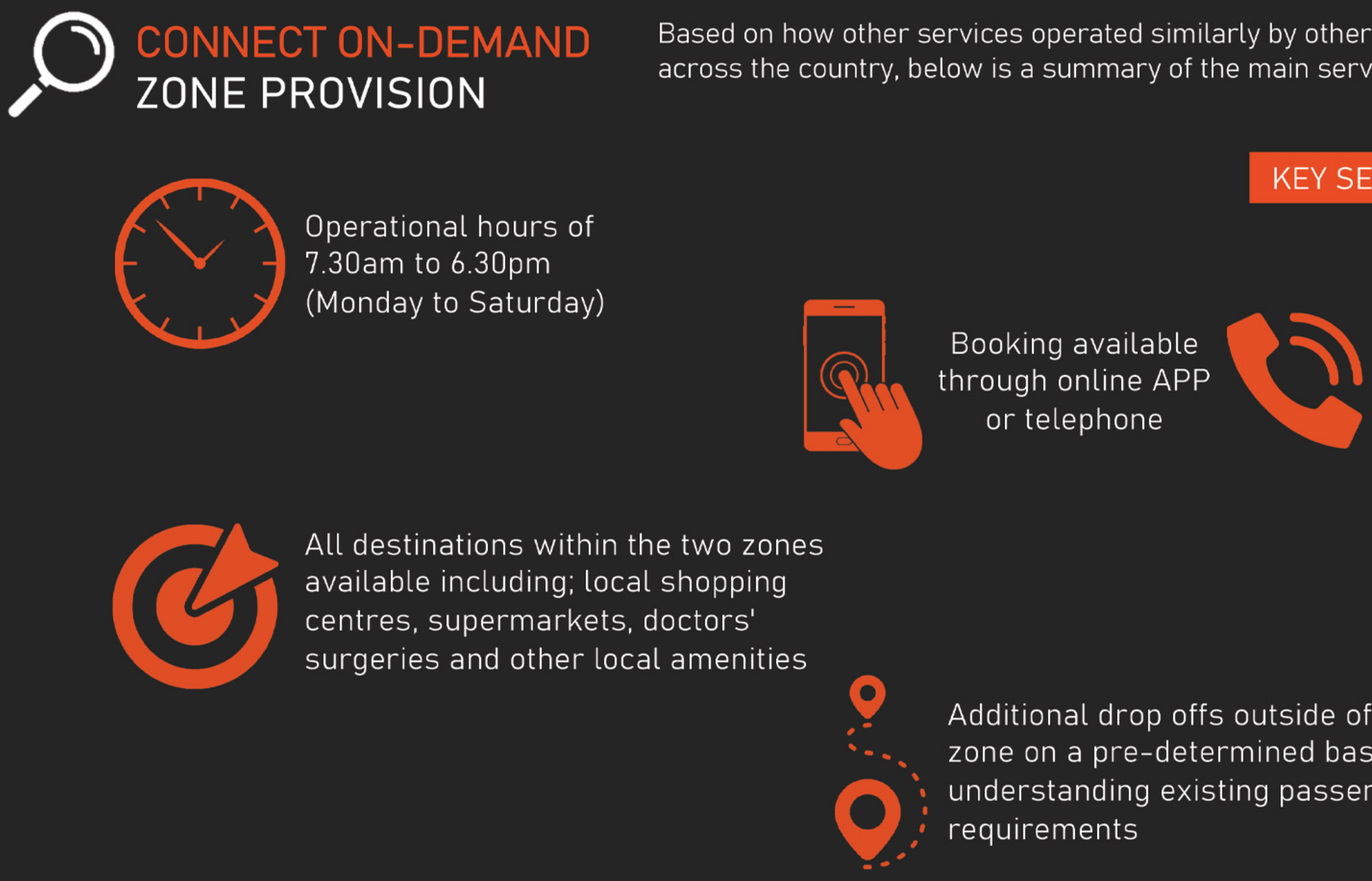
By Bernie Bentick, Meole Councillor

Shropshire Council launched its new 'Connect on Demand' bus service in December 2023. This taxi-style bus service will allow more rural Shropshire communities to have an improved bus service, but will also be available for Meole residents from particular locations on Longden Road, shown in the maps on Shropshire Councils website. There are currently 3 vehicles that will be in operation around the county and all are disability friendly.

There are 3 zones, which are pick up or destination points, and these are: Longden/Pulverbatch, Bayston Hill/Lyth Hill and Oteley Road, including Shrewsbury Town FC. You can book the bus either into Shrewsbury, or out to 1 of the 3 zones.

The Longden/Pulverbatch zone extends to Longden Road and includes the Meole section of Longden Road. The Bayston Hill/Lyth Hill zone extends to The Meole Retail Park. Shrewsbury Town Centre destinations include The central bus station and train station.

More info, including zone maps, on the Shropshire Council website:
https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/public-transport/connect-on-demand/



Meole Active Travel Plans

By Bernie Bentick, Meole Councillor

Meole is a pioneer area in Shropshire Council's Active Travel plan for Shrewsbury. The scheme promotes walking and cycling, to encourage exercise for health and well-being, preventing unnecessary car usage and so helping to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases.

There are 2800 children and students attending the schools in Meole and many walk or cycle for their journeys each day. Improvements in the road infrastructure will create seperate lanes for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles; improving safety.

The map shows the planned Active Travel routes, which will provide safe paths across Meole, extending to Copthorne (including the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital), Bayston Hill and into Shrewsbury town centre. While some sections already have building funds secured, others will need further central Government funding.

The first sections will be on Bank Farm Road, Longden Road, Stanley Lane. Roman Road and the Longden Road/Roman Road roundabout. Contact the Council Active Travel web page or bernie4meole@gmail.com for further details.

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MECA Events At The Meet Place

By Amal Moore / Pioneer Community Minister @ Trinity Churches Shrewsbury

The Meet Place is the heart of the community on the Meole Estate, from which we run regular groups on a weekly basis for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Bacon Buddies is a drop-in, open to anyone in the community. People come in for a free cup of tea or coffee and bacon sandwich, but above all it is a space where people feel very welcomed and able to build friendships in a warm and safe environment.

As we all know, loneliness and isolation can contribute to all sorts of mental health issues. For this reason, we are running our senior citizens' lunch club, however, anyone is welcome to join. The club is totally free of charge. We provide transport for those who struggle with mobility. Lunch is either a hot meal or an afternoon tea, followed by a few games of prize bingo where everyone wins a prize.

We love to invest in the children on the estate and see the importance of providing a welcoming and safe space for them. We want to see them grow and reach their full potential, and to dream big about their future. We see children as an important part of life on the estate and want to help them develop an interest in building their community. We run a dance class for primary aged children, as well as a youth drop-in for secondary aged children in partnership with Shrewsbury Town Council.

For over six years we have been partnering with the Food Hub to provide food-share tables for the community. This has been a big help for those who have struggled financially, especially with the current cost of living. This is also completely free of charge.

We run a regular craft group called 'Knit and Natter', which is open for anyone to come along, enjoy a craft, company, and a hot drink.

In addition to the above groups, we have a long partnership with Trinity Churches Shrewsbury, who run various events on the Meole Estate, alongside volunteers from MECA.

There is an annual three day event, Holiday at Home, for those aged 50+ who wouldn't otherwise have a holiday, in addition to an annual beach trip which is open to all families on the estate. The trip is heavily subsidised to allow those who are on low income to be able to have a daytrip as a family and includes fish and chips.

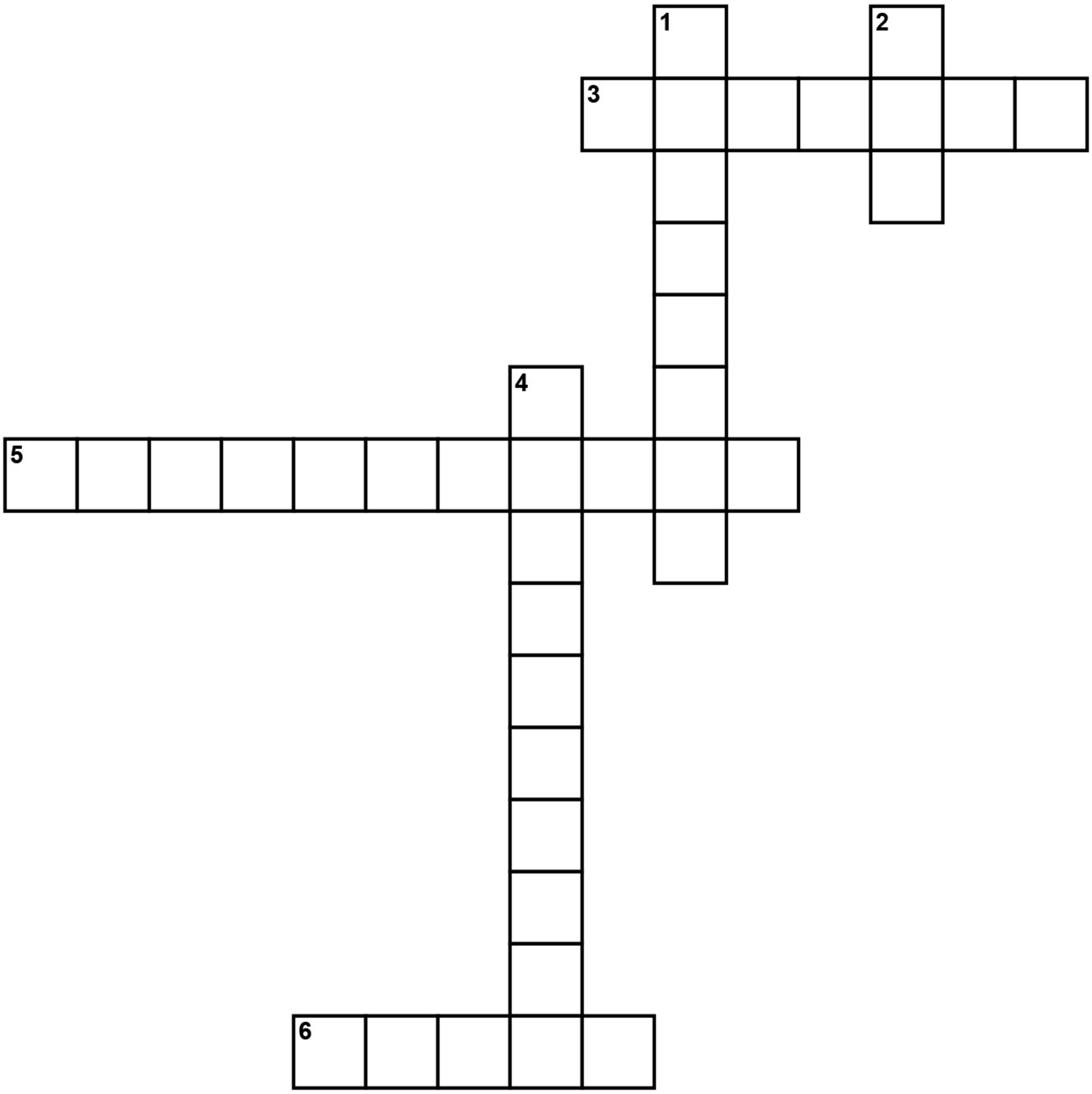
In recent years we have been partnering with Shropshire Council and Energize Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, who have provided some grants that enabled us to keep our warm spaces running and to introduce seated exercise to our senior citizens' lunch club to help with their mobility.

MECA also organises a summer BBQ, fun days, and Christmas events on the estate.

Day / Time	Activity
Monday 13:00 - 14:00	Trinity Churches Prayer Meeting (Third Monday of the month)
Monday 13:30 or 19:00 (90 Mins)	MECA Meeting (Bi-monthly)
Tuesday 16:00 - 17:30	Youth Drop-in (Year 8+)
Wednesday 10:30 - 12:00	Bacon Buddies Drop-in
Wednesday 12:30 - 15:00	Warm Spaces Senior Citizen's Lunch Club
Wednesday 15:30 - 16:15	Dance class for primary aged children
Thursday 09:00 - 10:00	Foodshare Table
Thursday 13:15 - 14:45	Knit and Natter Group (Bi-weekly)

Find us on Facebook: 'Meole Estate Community Action'

Meole Wildlife Crossword



Across

[3] A wriggly baby frog.

[5] This avian predator is especially good at hunting in gardens and woods in daytime.

[6] This bird is a fast flier that migrates to the UK from Africa. Groups soar and screech in summer over our houses.

Down

[1] What kind of nocturnal bird can be heard singing twit twoo?

[2] This orange mammal might use your garden at night.

[4] Another bird that can fly all the way to Africa for the winter. When it sings, this warbler says it's name.

(Solution on Meole Village Gardens Event Page)

Defibrillators For Meole

By Caroline Higgins / Meole Village Community Group

Meole Village Community Group is raising money to fund life-saving defibrillators for Meole. At present, there are no publicly accessible defibrillators in either Meole Village or on Meole Estate. Having access to a defibrillator in an emergency where a loved one suffers a heart attack could mean the difference between life and death, so MVCG are working to install defibrillators in both areas.

We are approaching funding organisations for grants but if successful, we will need match funding and additional funds to cover the installation costs and ongoing replacement of pads and batteries. To keep them safe and accessible, the defibrillators will be stored in secure, heated cabinets registered with the ambulance service. If you dial 999 the ambulance service can direct you to the nearest defibrillator and give the access code to the cabinet. The defibrillators can be used by anybody as they give audible instructions to the user, but MVCG would also arrange training sessions for residents who would like to gain confidence in their use.

The estimated cost of each defibrillator, cabinet and installation is around £1,500. We are very grateful to Brian and Jules at Meole Village News, who have kindly agreed to allow one of the cabinets to be fixed to their external wall and to fund the electricity to heat the cabinet. Heating the cabinet keeps the defibrillator batteries in peak condition. This is a central location for Meole Village residents and can easily be found in an emergency. We have also approached Shropshire Council for permission to locate one at The Meet Place on Maesbrook Road on Meole Estate but are waiting for completion of safety checks at the building.

To raise funds, an Open Garden event will be held next summer, and we would love to hear from any keen gardeners who may be willing to show off their hard work (please see Jean Foster's article for more details).

We are also collecting cash donations at Meole Village News (look for the collection box on the counter). If you prefer to contribute by bank transfer, please use the details below. Thank you for your support.

Meole Village Community Group
Sort Code 20-77-85 (Barclays)
Account No 73132153

MEOLE BRACE

GARDEN & ALLOTMENT CLUB

Meole Brace Garden & Allotment Club, with 200+ members and 139 allotment plots across three sites in Shrewsbury, are one of the largest and longest-standing allotment clubs in Shropshire.

We take great pride in our local community and would welcome you to join our club.

Membership

We offer two types of membership – Garden Club Membership and Allotment Club Membership. The Garden Club Membership allows members to take part in social events (2024 details on the next page), provides 50% off seeds at Kings Seeds, as well as several other benefits. Allotment Club Members receive the garden club benefits, as well as having an allocated allotment plot.

If you would like to know more, please check out our website, find us on social media or contact us:

www.meolebraceallotmentclub.co.uk

Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club

Meole Brace Garden and Allotment Club Social Events 2024

Your friendly local garden club

All welcome

Come and join us!

All talks are held at the

Meole Brace Memorial Hall @ 19:00

26th February 2024

Speaker TBC

25th March 2024

The sites in Shropshire you don't see in calendars

29th April 2024

Linton Waters

30th September 2024

Speaker TBC

28th October 2024

Speaker TBC

25th November 2024

Speaker TBC

Talk and refreshments free for members.

£3 for non-members

Meole Village Open Gardens Event 2024

A Village Event to raise money to obtain & maintain Defibrillators for Meole

Following a request in the summer of 2023 for Gardens to be included in this event, as of November 2023 10 Village gardens have been generously offered.

It would be good to have a few more from any area of the Village, but particularly from the Church Road & roads off, Washford Road, Washford Park & the Adswood Grove area. The Gardens already offered at that end of the Village are rather spread out.

The Memorial Hall has offered to provide refreshments, the money made from these will be for the Memorial Hall fund.

An exact date has yet to be decided. I anticipate a Sunday the second half of June or early July, time 11am to 5pm maybe, all to be decided by the participants & we will go with the majority choice.

External access to the garden is a requirement, also your attendance to chat to visitors. If you are concerned that you would be on your own, you could ask a friend to help on the day, or we could arrange for a volunteer to assist. Most visitors are interested in the plants, & keen to chat about them & features of the garden, advice is given & received, inevitably people bump into friends, neighbours etc. it hopefully is a real social occasion.

If you are interested or wish to know more, please email jemfoster@talktalk.net or phone 07734961044

Meole Wildlife Crossword Solution

01 - TAWNYOWL
02 - FOX
03 - TADPOLE
04 - CHIFFCHAFF
05 - SPARROWHAWK
06 - SWIFT

How To Beat Those January Blues & Make The Most Of The Winter Season

By Sophie McCahey

January and the winter months post festivities are often described as bleak and miserable, yet I believe there are many simple ways we can find light and joy in these colder, darker days.

Embrace the pace of winter:

All too often, we hit the ground running with a (often unrealistic) plethora of new year's resolutions that end up abandoned by the time February arrives. One of the reasons for this is that for most of us, winter can feel like a very unnatural time to be cramming our schedules full. We are seasonal beings and, although we sometimes forget it in modern life, deeply connected to nature. Winter is a time when the natural world is still, there is not much growing, and we have those drawn out and frosty nights. All of this invites us to spend more time at home, to relax, to move at a slower pace. Naure does not rush, and neither should we. So instead of putting pressure on ourselves to 'go, go, go!', perhaps this year we can embrace the good things to be found in this season. Let's start slow! Instead of setting punishing new year's resolutions, let's set gentle intentions that come from a place of kindness. I believe that leaning into the season and what it has to offer is the key to a happy wintertime, instead of resisting it and wishing it away!

This extra time indoors can be an excellent opportunity to spend some more time with family, friends and loved ones. Perhaps we take this opportunity to get in the kitchen and cook some cosy, seasonal recipes. Perhaps finally get stuck into that book that's been waiting on the nightstand, try some mindful colouring books, whatever takes your fancy! See the checklist below for more tips.

Winter wellbeing checklist:

Supplementing with Vitamin D: our skin makes vitamin D when it comes in contact with sunlight (which we of course are lacking at this time!) and is therefore known as the sunshine vitamin. The government actually recommends all adults take at least 10 micrograms (400 i.u) of Vitamin D over the winter. Vit D is helpful for mood so will help us to beat those January blues but also has benefits for our bone health as well as immunity.

Try Meditation: The stillness of the winter is a great time to go within and start a meditation practice. Meditation has many benefits including improved focus, mood and even helping with anxiety and stress. If you are not sure where to begin there are many apps that include free guided meditations and there are plenty to be found on YouTube. As a teacher of yoga and meditation, my biggest tip would be to try without expectations - focus on giving yourself some time and space to just be, and don't worry about achieving a clear mind (for most of us this is not possible and does not need to be!).

Try cooking a new recipe: there are many beautiful seasonal foods this time of year. Veg that is in season includes parsnips, carrots, kale, cabbage. If possible, shopping locally for the freshest and most seasonal produce makes a difference in the quality and helps to support our local Shropshire businesses.

Journalling: as we are very much supported in focusing our energy within at this time, writing down our thoughts and feelings can be a lovely habit to start in 2024. This could be jotting a few lines about your day before bed (what went well, what did not go so well) or perhaps writing a list of what you are grateful for. Reflection is important when it comes to our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around us.

Spreading Kindness: when we are kind to others, we spread the love and goodness and create more of that in our communities and in the world. Buying a friend, a coffee, telling someone to have a good day, giving a family member a call to let you know you are thinking of them, donating some old belongings to charity are all small and simple acts but they go a long way, we help to create more light in these darker months.

I'm wishing you all a joyful and happy start to the new year and a blessed 2024

I teach regular Yoga Classes at Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall Wednesday 9:30-10:30am and Friday 7-8pm.

To book please email me directly: sophiecosmicdreams@outlook.com

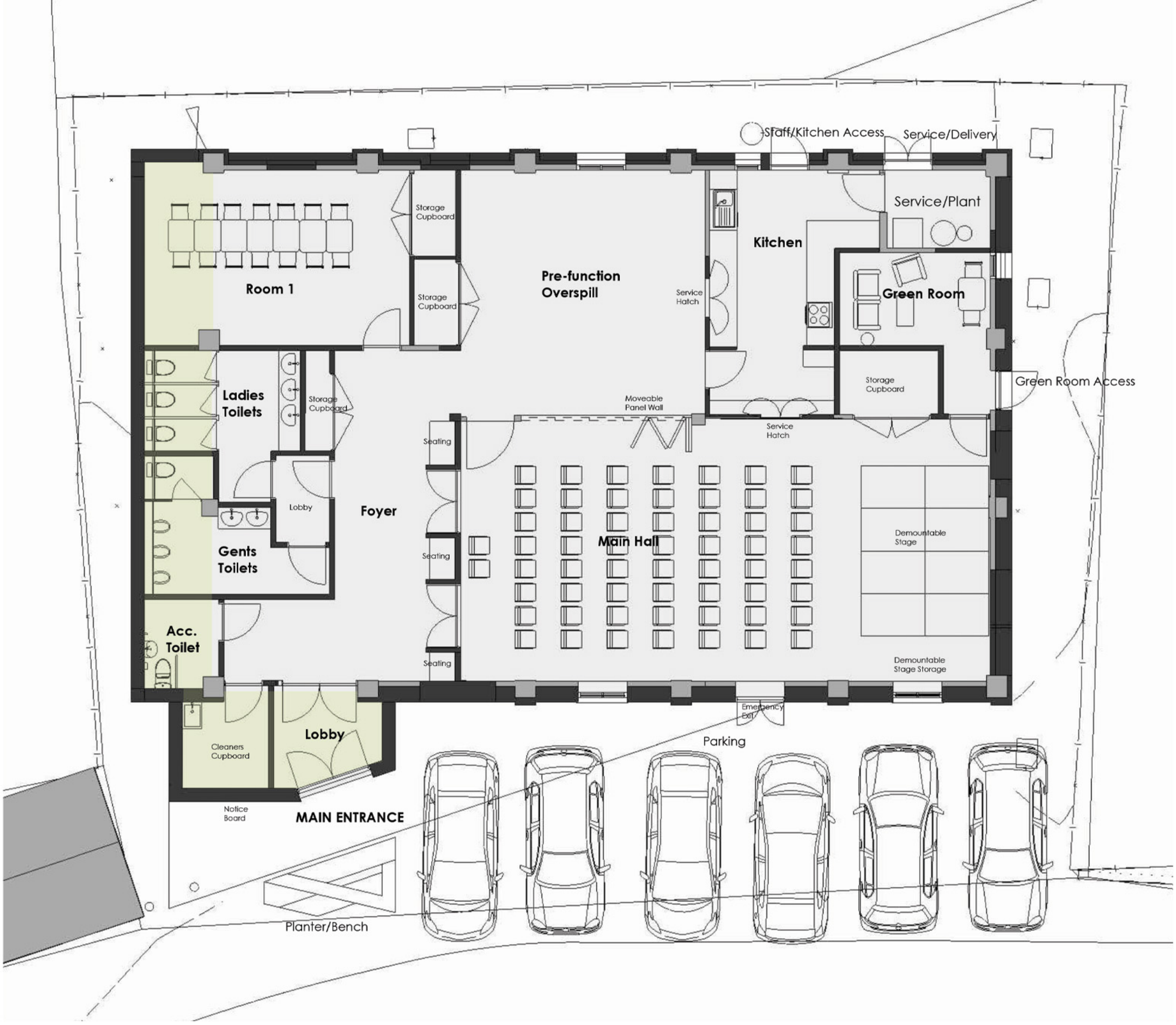
Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall - A New Life

A bold new refurbishment design and internal layout for Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall has now received planning permission and initial costings are indicating potential spend of around £450,000.

Peter Dunhill, the Hall chairman, says ‘We know this is a large sum to raise but with local support and some ambitious grant applications currently in the pipeline we feel we can reach this target. We know there is a need for our Hall and everyone recognises that the building needs to be refreshed and made more energy efficient’

Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall is a traditional ‘village hall’ serving the local community by providing a meeting space for groups to engage in a wide variety of activities. These include choir singing, dance, WI meetings, Garden and Allotment Club meetings and shows, art, yoga, play rehearsals, pre-school sessions, musical and theatrical entertainments, children’s parties and social events.

The Hall is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – charity no. 1170090 with a management committee of 5 Charity Trustees. In addition there is the backing of a number of key volunteers including a Booking Secretary and representatives of local groups who use the Hall.



The hiring charges for the Hall are modest and preference is given to local bookings. Administration and maintenance, apart from weekly cleaning, are carried out entirely by volunteers. The Committee run a number of fundraising activities throughout the year.

‘A New Life - added life for the community’ is a major step in revitalising the Hall while continuing to embrace its status as war memorial.

The Hall was built in 1921 and, though well loved and well used, is ‘tired’ and in need of significant improvements to its appearance, access, infrastructure, maintenance demands, energy efficiency and use of space.

It serves a well expressed local need and has the potential to support a wider range of community uses especially for children and young people in both Meole Village and Meole Estate.

Peter Dunhill added ‘We have consulted our current users and the local community extensively and modified our plans accordingly to the point where there is widespread support for what we are proposing.

Hillside House
Nursery & Pre-School

The Hillside House Nurseries have a long history of Outstanding and Good Ofsted reports. Both settings are situated in lovely rural areas, just outside of Shrewsbury and only a 10 minute drive from the town centre. We offer a comprehensive and exciting curriculum for young children from birth to five years old.

We are open 51 weeks of the year, Monday-Friday from 7.50am-6pm.

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For more information, please contact:

Jo Randles at Lyth Hill (SY30AU) on 01743 872203 or

Lucie Preston at Hook-a-Gate (SY58BE) on 01743 860456

Or alternatively, send us an email on infolh@hillsidehousenursery.co.uk

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Meole Councillor Annual Report

By Bernie Bentick / Meole Ward Councillor

Dear Meole neighbours,

2023 has been a very active year for Meole, with lots of digging up of roads and pavements and traffic disruption for the various services improvements.

The fence damage from the Rea Brook flood in October 2018 was finally repaired after 3 ½ years in March 2022, but was again damaged in the recent flood of October 2023 & I'm waiting for a response to my request to Shropshire Council to repair it again.

Following the planting of 7 new trees and hundreds of spring bulbs on the Stanley Lane Recreation area in December 2022, spring and summer saw the success of this project, with lots of daffodils, tulips and alliums flowering and the trees thriving, apart from one, with the diligence of our tree watering rota of Meole Village volunteers. The dead tree will be replaced this winter and we have the offer of additional fruit trees this winter. Please let me know where you would like them planted at bernie4meole@gmail.com

After the sad passing of Village campaigner Susan Luther in 2022, Andy Harding, on behalf of the Meole Village Community Group (MVCG), set up a JustGiving page to raise funds for a memorial bench on the Stanley Lane Recreation area and advertised this on the local facebook groups. Over £1000 has so far been raised towards the £1250 needed to install and maintain the bench. You can donate to the fund by going onto the Just Giving page and donating there: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/andrew-harding-134. Alternatively, you can contact MVCG Treasurer Jean Foster.

Several Street Parties and the Meole Brace Bowling Club celebrated the King's Coronation in early May. later that month, the REVS23 Classic Car Rally brought style and nostalgia to the Village and some wonderful singing from the Rock Choir.

The fibre broadband saga started with Full Fibre proposing 20 new telegraph poles in Meole Village in May 2023, principally on Washford Park, to permit ultrafast broadband speeds. Opinion was divided on the desirability of this and a Public Meeting was held in June, when I was asked to survey affected residents.

Virgin Media contractors then arrived unannounced on 7th August in Rivington Avenue and dug up the pavement & residents' drives for their underground fibre broadband installation. This was welcomed in principle, but many Washford Park residents were irritated by the lack of notice or consultation. Most of Meole has now had underground fibre installed. Openreach have recently advised that they plan installation of their own poles in 2024. At a 2nd public Meeting on 31st August, all 3 Companies gave presentations and answered residents' questions. I arranged a 2nd residents' survey, the report of which I've recently published. Summaries are available by emailing myself at bernie4meole@gmail.com

The Meole Traffic Group met in May and October in the Trinity Centre, when Shropshire Council's Highways Development Officer Ffion Horton updated residents on plans to improve safety on roads in the vicinity of Meole's secondary schools. These plans include Meole being a pioneer area in Shropshire's Active Travel plans, with routes from the schools to Roman Road, through the Village and Meole Estate. New footpaths have also been requested in the vicinity of Sweetlake Meadow. A new Toucan pedestrian and cyclist crossing will be constructed in West Meole, on Longden Road, just south of Stanley Lane, in New Year 2024.
We continue to press for traffic lights at the Roman Road/Upper Road junction, an extension of the 20 mph speed limit throughout Meole and a Matchday Parking Permit System. Other measures have been
requested and summaries are available by emailing myself at bernie4meole@gmail.com

We saw the success of the Community Tree planting from December 2022 on the Stanley Lane Recreation Area, with 6 of the 7 trees surviving the winter and looking healthy through the year, thanks to the Meole volunteers who took part in a watering rota organised by local resident Chloe McCann. Spring bulbs planted with the trees gave a lovely spring display and the Council Wild Flower area gave a glorious show in the summer. Tree watering volunteers are need again in 2024; please email me or Jean Foster to volunteer.

Despite Meole residents previously objecting, the development of 7 homes in Washford Road proceeded through the year, with numerous concerns to The Council Planning Dept about whether the construction remained within its Planning Consent: it appears it did and was nearing completion at the end of the year.

On the 20th August, the Meole Brace Garden & Allotment Club had its annual Show in the Peace Memorial Hall, with over 100 attending and prizes awarded

for several categories of vegetables, fruit, flowers and cookery. Please contact Chair Sharon Skelton for details of the 2024 social programme and how to join the Club: sls24@hotmail.co.uk

The Peace Memorial Hall continues to provide a venue for multiple clubs and organisations, including choir singing, dance, WI meetings, Garden and Allotment Club meetings and shows, art, yoga, play rehearsals, pre-school sessions, musical and theatrical entertainments, children's parties and social events.
Details of their programme are on their noticeboard and from the Chair of Trustees, Peter Dunhill: dunhill@talktalk.net

A joint MVCG and MECA Litter pick and Path tidy in September, just before start of school year was very successful and included clearing the undergrowth at the side entrance to Meole Primary School.

The Trinity Churches 10th Apple Day was a huge success once more, with apple pressing, a hog roast, live music and crafts on a glorious sunny day.

In West Meole, concerns about the future of the number 20 bus were finally dispelled with the autumn announcement that Lakeside Coaches have taken over the running of the service, with funding guaranteed at least until March 2025. Additionally, the new Connect On-Demand service has replaced buses 544 and 546.

On 26th November local small businesses and volunteers held the annual Meole Frost Fayre, attracting an excellent number of local neighbours to browse, soak up the atmosphere and buy seasonal goods.

The annual Christmas lights in Pendle Way went ahead as usual, with spectacular displays through the festive season and much needed funds raised for Hope House Children's Hospice and the MIND Charity.

Finally, Trinity Churches had their Carols on the Green on the 14th December and their usual spiritually uplifting Christmas services and celebrations.

I would like to wish you all, my Meole neighbours, a Happy New Year and hope that it brings you health, spiritual peace, happiness and prosperity.

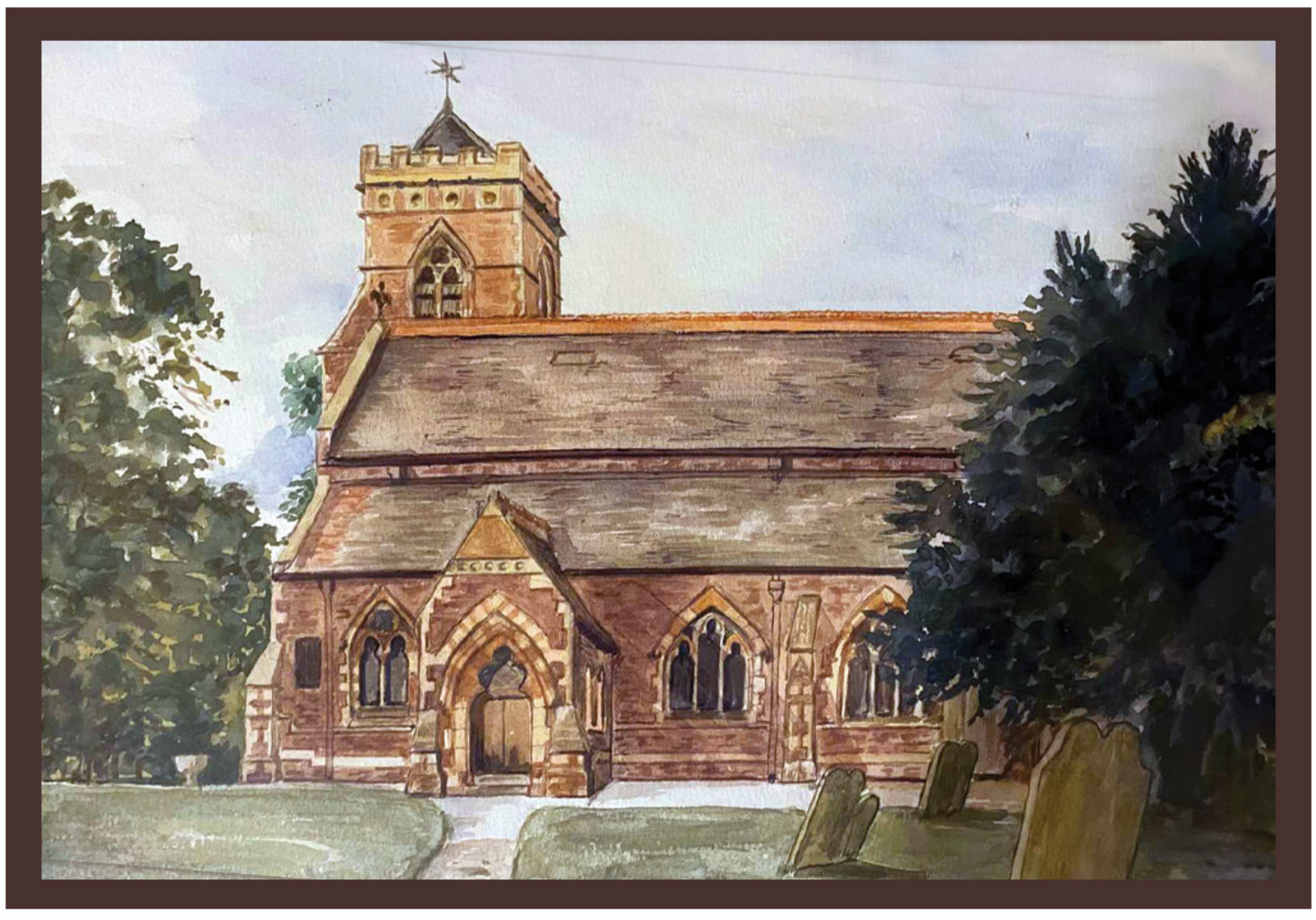
With best wishes, Bernie Bentick
Meole Ward Councillor.

Memory Lane

By Phil Cansdale / Vicar @ Meole Brace Church (trinitychurches.org)

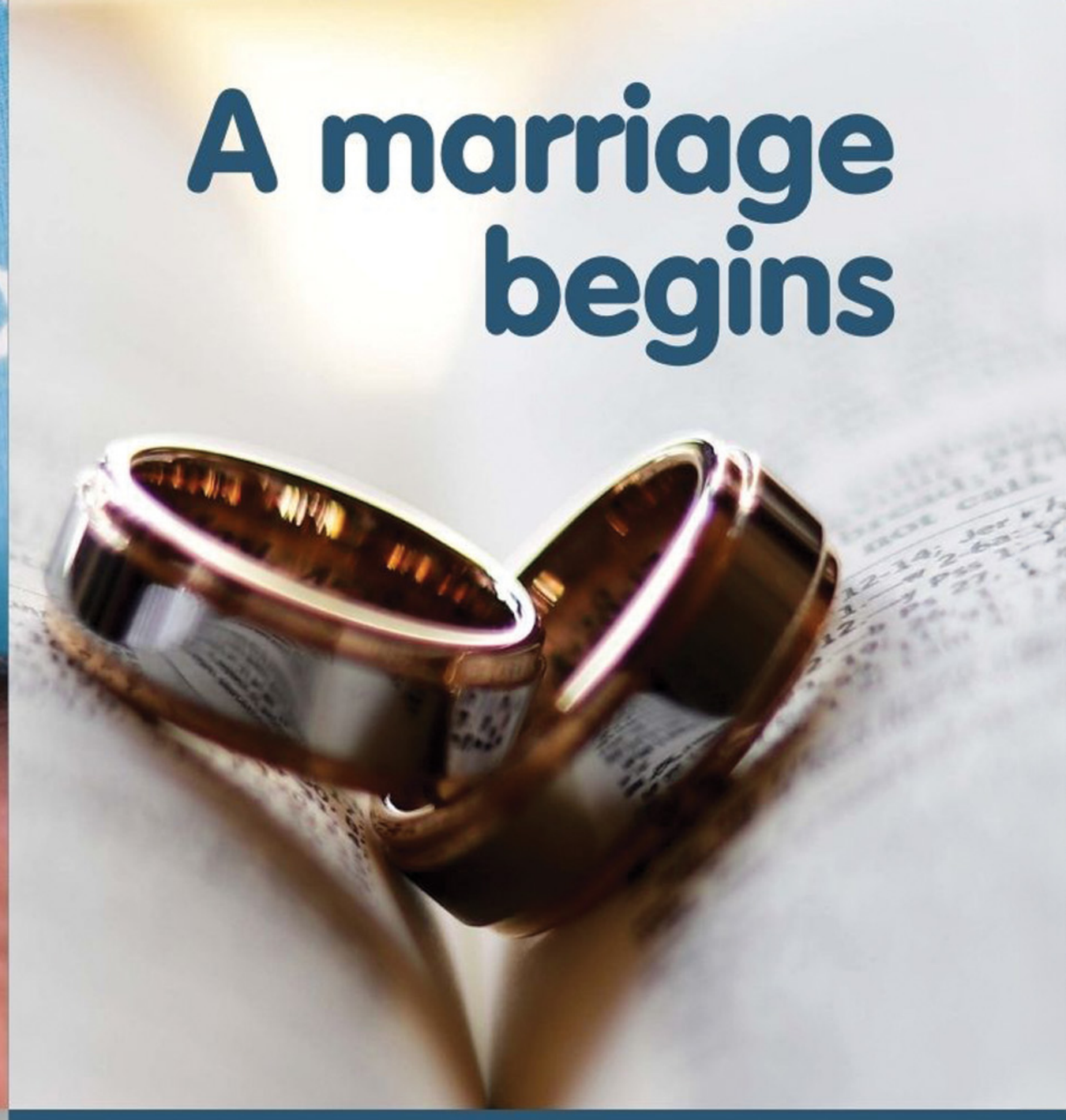
I was in town recently, and found myself sheltering momentarily in "Memory Lane", the antiques and vintage shop.

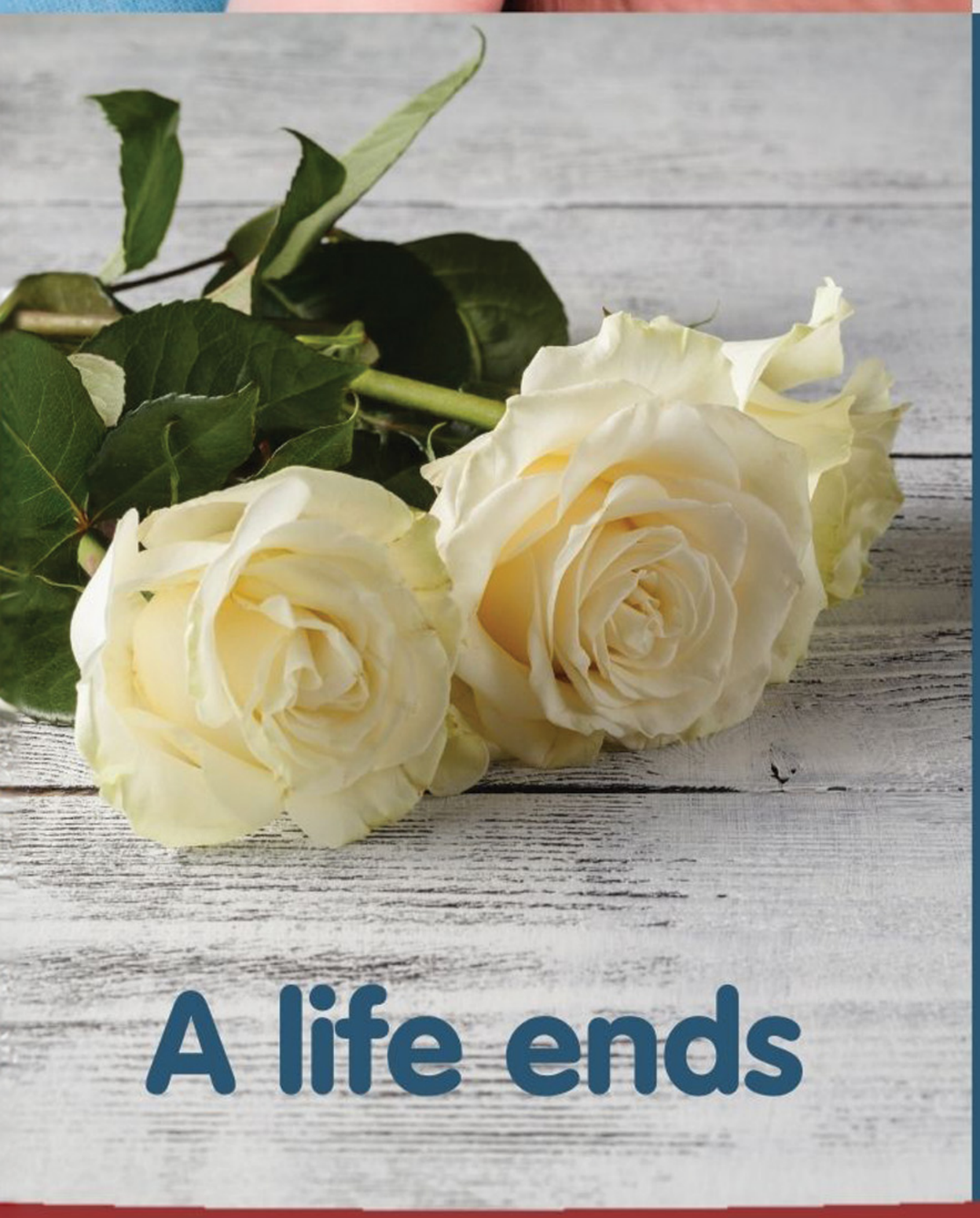
It was then this picture caught my eye. "I know that place" I said to myself, recognising this fairly well-known view of Meole Brace churchyard painted in 1979. The price tag was a princely £5, though it won't surprise you I said to the shop owner "what's the discount if I'm the vicar of the church" and so we shook on £4. It is now awaiting a bit of TLC before it finds its way onto my study walls.



A few, though probably not many, reading this will have been in Meole Brace in 1979. The scene of this painting is little changed, and the 1860s building from the outside remains unchanged. And yet I wonder how the life of Meole Brace has changed in that time? New homes and the retail park? We've got AI, broadband, and electric cars, though still the potholes remain! I know only fourteen years in Meole Brace makes me a newcomer in some people's eyes, but I've certainly seen some changes in the time I've lived here.

Looking at the picture just now my eyes were drawn to the font, just to the left of the church door. It is many hundreds of years old, where thousands of babies have been christened and welcomed into the life of God's family and this local community. "God has called you by name and loves you" has been spoken over countless children and families. In both the changes and challenges of our days – and I guess many of us may have known both – I'm reminded of the longer story of this amazing community, and of the faithful goodness of God.





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Vicar: Revd Phil Cansdale

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Rea Brook Water Quality

By Bernie Bentick, Meole Councillor

The Rea Brook is a beautiful natural resource of Meole and the centre-piece of the Nature Reserve, which attracts both local people and visitors to its relaxing paths and woodland vistas, as the brook itself meanders through the wood. Walkers, dog walkers, cyclists and joggers all use this local retreat regularly. However, sewage discharges and agricultural run-off from fertilisers have reduced the quality of its water and the numbers of creatures that create its biodiversity and health.

The concentration of certain marker chemicals such as ammonia is measured by Shrewsbury Fisheries volunteers regularly to detect fertilizer pollution, while Severn Trent Water supply The Environment Agency with records of sewage discharges.

Counts of invertebrates in the water measure the direct effect of pollution on the biology of the Rea Brook and so a group of trained enthusiasts, led by Dr. Rob Park and Anna McCann, conducted a water test in July of this year, at a site previously registered with The Environment Agency, using a recognized sampling method called ‘kick sampling’. The results showed that there is still a wide range of invertebrates in the Rea Brook, including stonefly and mayfly nymphs, but much less than would be seen in healthy water.

If you would like to be part of a team regularly testing the Rea Brook water quality, then please contact Mr Pete Lambert, Head of Land and Water, at Shropshire Wildlife Trust: PeteL@ShropshireWildlifeTrust.org.uk

SCAN ME

Meole Brace School

Autumn Term in Social Media

Meole Brace School

meolebraceschool

Meole Brace School
1 November at 13:42 ·

We are so unbelievably proud of what our staff and students have achieved. From head shaves, Zumba sessions and cake bakes our school has managed to send an incredible amount off to support MacMillan.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

BRAVE THE SHAVE

WhatsApp

Spread the word about this story with friends and family on Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp or send them an email.

£1255.00

raised of £300.00 target

Posts About Videos More

Meole Brace School
14 Oct ·

Open day took place on Wednesday with hundreds of parents and year 6 pupils attending. All staff and pupils had a wonderful time showing wha... See more

meolebraceschool

meolebraceschool A huge thank you to all the staff
students who raised awareness for World Mental He
on Tuesday by supporting the Hello Yellow campaig
#helloyellow #mentalhealthmatters

12 October

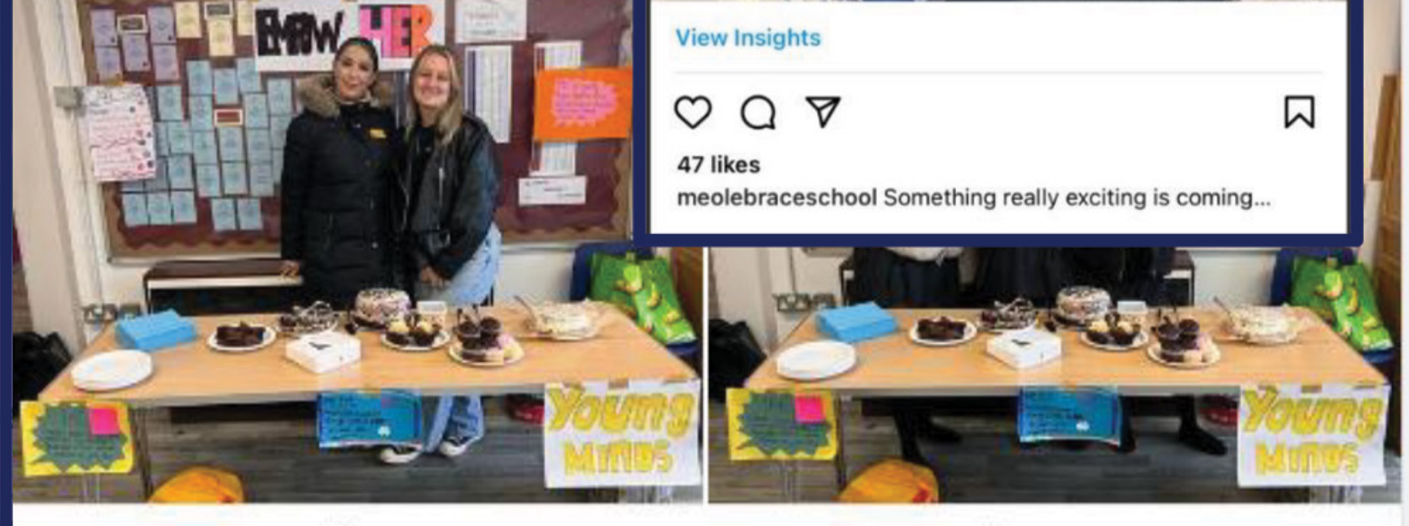
meolebraceschool
Shrewsbury

View Insights

47 likes
meolebraceschool Something really exciting is coming...

Meole Brace School
14 November at 20:04 ·

A small group of students who have been ta
Shropshire Youth Team, held a cake sale toc
Thank you to students and staff who came a



Like Share

Liked by and 25 oth

meolebraceschool Yesterday Y7 did Zumba d
their PDC lesson. It was great fun! Thank you t
for visiting and leading the session!

LEARNING
RESPECT
SUCCESS

Meole Brace School

meolebraceschool

View Insights

Liked by meolegeography and 70 others

meolebraceschool The grotto is sparkling, th
and there are raffle & tombola prizes in abund
be the Christmas fair tomorrow... more

meolebraceschool

olebraceschool Staff and Students very generously
ated 737 items to Shrewsbury Foodbank Plus, for this
rs Foodbank drive.
winners of the drive, retaining the Elaine Emberton Cup
ne process are, 9CH!
uge well done and thank you to all that donated.
October

Meole Brace School
26 October

Here are some of the fantastic pumpkins carved by our Young Carers group this week. Happy half term!

meolebraceschool
Shrewsbury

Liked by and 25 others

meolebraceschool On Wednesday we had a virtual author talk with Maz Evans, author of 'Oh Maya Gods', a new book in the number one children's books bestseller series "Who Let the Gods Out".

meolebraceschool

likes

eolebraceschool Yesterday, we took 260 students on a
ward trip to Drayton Manor This was to celebrate each
them receiving 500 house points last year!
espite the rain, the students and staff had great fun
September

View Insights

Liked by mbspe and 37 others

meolebraceschool This weekend a group of year 11 students went on an exciting trip to The Globe to see Macbeth. Both staff and students had an incredible time.

Meole Brace Sports Centre

At Meole Brace School, we have a wide range of sports facilities available for public use. Bookings can be made at least 24 hours in advance directly via our page www.pitchbooking.com

The sports centre has a full sized, floodlit, synthetic pitch that can accomodate hockey, football as well as a range of other sports and activities.

The large sports hall is great for badminton, basketball, netball, indoor football and can also host a plethora of other sports and activities. In addition we have specialised equipment for other popular sports such as pickleball and futsal. Other facilities available to book include our grass pitches, school hall, gymnasium and dance studio.

For regular block bookings outside our regular hours, booking large events or any other enquiries please email us at: lettingsmbs@meole.co.uk

Our regular hours are as follows:
Monday-Friday: 5pm-10pm
Saturday-Sunday: 9am-12:30pm

Meole Village Nature Network

By Philip Boak

Having lived in Meole Brace for over 24 years I have been delighted by the amount of wildlife that can still be seen in the neighbourhood. However, purchasing a motion activated camera has revealed a whole world of nocturnal wildlife.

Highlights have included spotting regular hedgehogs, foxes, and the occasional badger. None of these I've actually sighted with my own eyes, so the motion camera has been a great way to record the presence of these animals in the dead of night.

It might be worth adding that the photos were taken using a Reconyx Hyperfire 500 trail camera, activated by movement and heat differential. The camera was purchased in 2014 and has amazing battery life (20months outside). However, if battery life isn't as much of an issue, you can now buy a large range of cheaper cameras with better resolution and the ability to take short films.

What is local government responsible for?

Shropshire Council

- Education
- Housing
- Council Tax & Benefits
- Waste Collection & Recycling
- Social Care
- Public Rights Of Way
- Highways, Gritting, Street Lights & Potholes
- Towpath Gates & Cleansing Of Towpath
- Public Protection
- Planning
- Libraries
- Leisure & Recreation
- Shrewsbury Shopping Centres
- Museum, Art Gallery & Visitor Information Centre
- Youth Provision
- Car Parks & Blue Badges
- Bus Passes

0345 678 9000
customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk

Shrewsbury Town Council

- Allotments
- Public Open Space
- Leisure & Recreation
- Play Areas
- Shrewsbury In Bloom
- Christmas Lights
- Events & Festivals
- Footway Lighting
- Mayor Of Shrewsbury & Civic Events
- Bus Shelters
- Youth Services
- Memorials On Town Council Assets
- Toilet Facilities In Shrewsbury

01743 281010
enquiries@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

The Priory School Update

As part of our 2023 **Act of Remembrance** each of the 30 form groups in the school constructed their own remembrance wreath using their own designs and materials. Students were encouraged to then reach out to our local community to partner with local business or community groups to display or present their finished wreaths around the town. We were blown away by both the efforts from our students and the engagement from our community. So much support and positivity from around the town towards our children's efforts. We are extremely proud to be able to support our community in ways like this and so thank you to those business and organisations that have helped connect our school with our community.

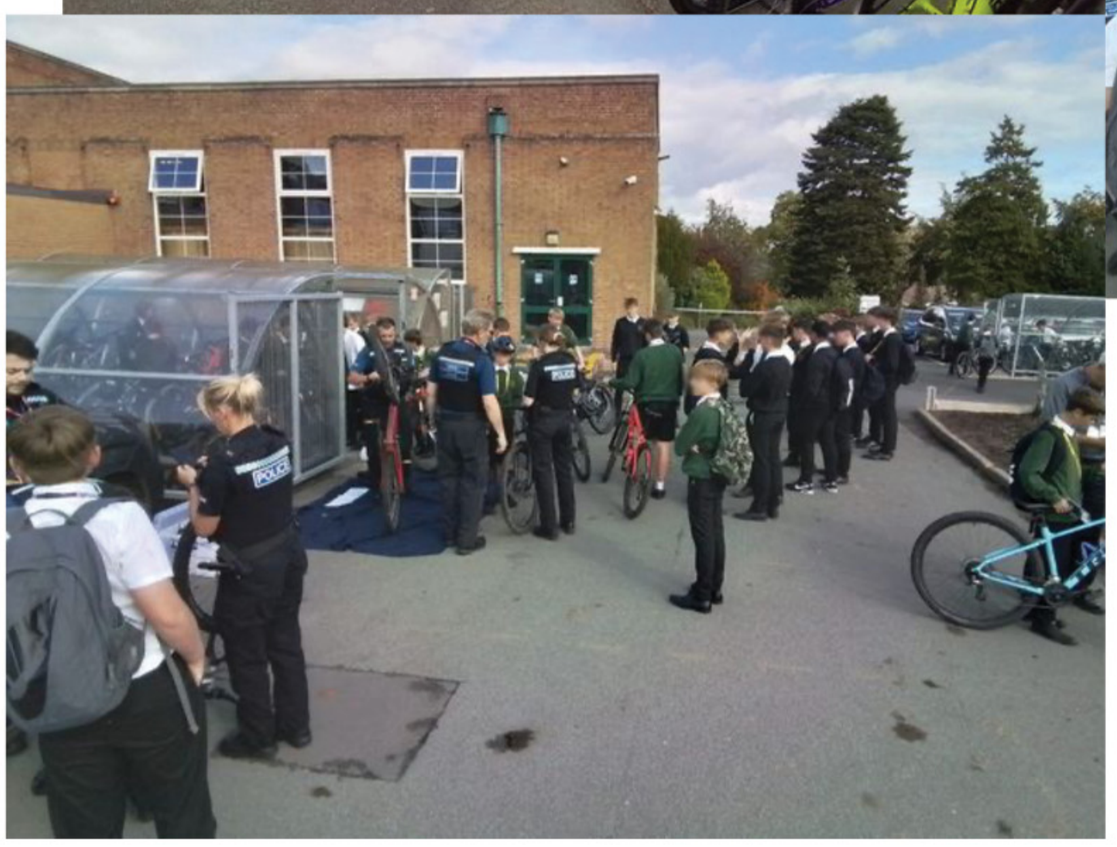
Here is a selection of photos of the wreaths and where they were displayed around the town.

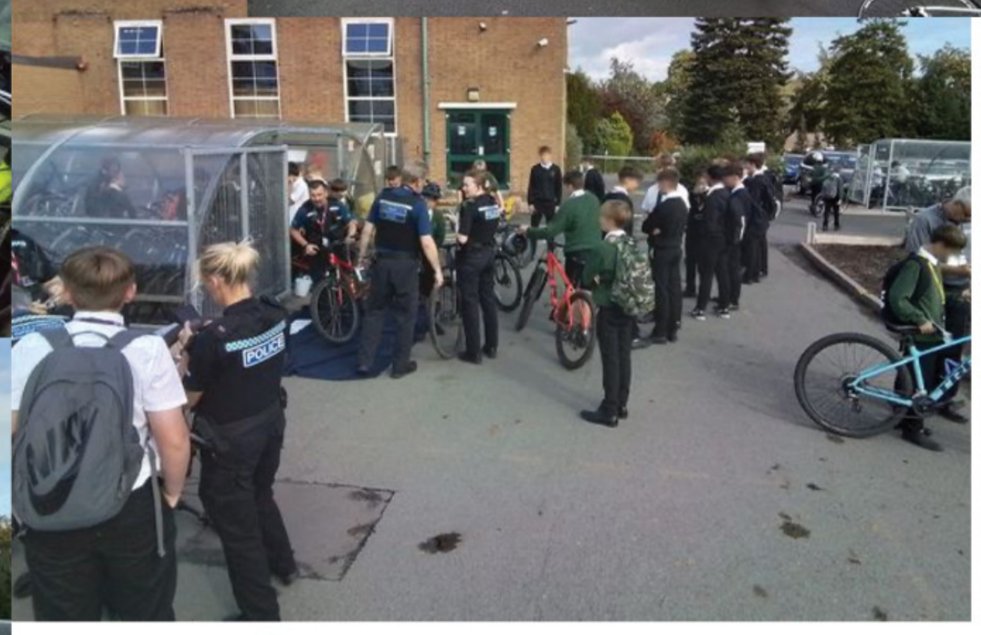
Facebook.com/PrioryScH

Twitter.com/PrioryScH

The Priory School Update

We recently enjoyed a very successful **Active Travel Week**. We use this week to promote Active Travel modes of transport with our student, help educate them in the importance of these modes for their own physical and mental health and the positive impact it has on the local and global environment. We want to create a culture where all students feel confident enough to choose to walk or cycle to and from school everyday and therefore reduce the number of cars on the roads around our school. The students and local community helped support this effort with Cllr Bernie Bentick coming on site to talk to students about the work being done by Shropshire council to improve infrastructure on the roads around the school, West Mercia Police came into school to help mark student bikes with “smart water” and the team from Learn Cycling for their Dr Bike Sessions and for training up 150 of our Year 7s to Level 3 in Bikeability!





Facebook.com/PrioryScH

Twitter.com/PrioryScH

The Priory School Update

Our **Community Litter Picks** were a great success with Year 7. Getting our students out and about in the community making a positive difference to our local area, showing the community that the young generation are here to make a positive difference to our society. Plus, as it turns out, it's really exciting to put on our amazing new "The Priory School in the community" Hi-Viz jackets and operate a litter picker for an hour!

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OWNER SATISFACTION AWARDS 2023 — Practical Caravan / The Camping and Caravanning Club — Gold Award — SUPPLYING DEALER - PRE-OWNED CARAVANS

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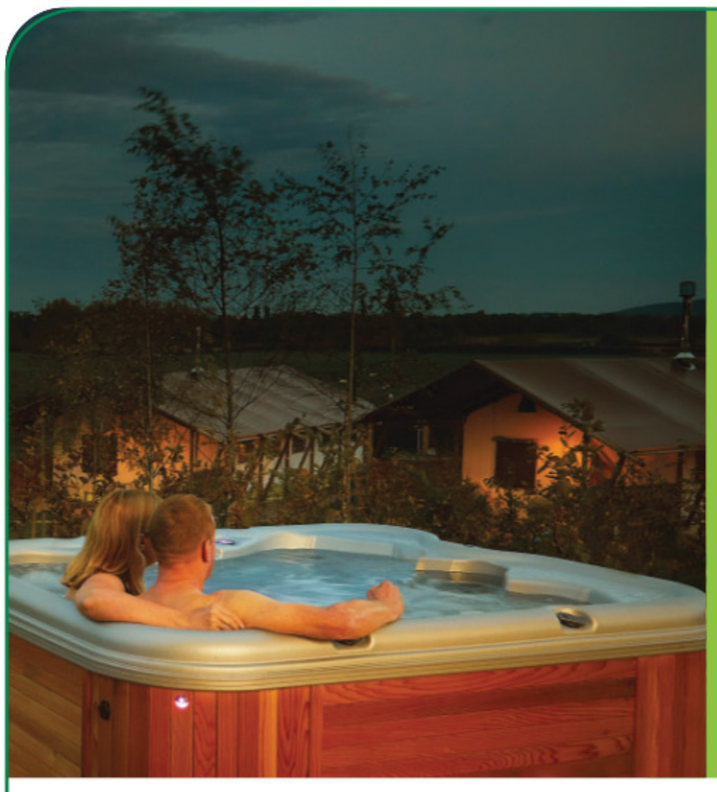

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